



JANUARY 2009 EDITION

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Salina Human Relations

“... with liberty and justice for all.”

THE MISSION OF THE SALINA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION IS TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AND TO ESTABLISH EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PERSONS WITHIN THE CITY OF SALINA THROUGH CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION.

High-school students to punctuate King event

Jenna Rivers and Jarah Cooper, two Salina high school students who organized a benefit concert last year to help in the fight against human trafficking, will be the keynote speakers at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Planning Committee will put on the event at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 17, at Quayle United Methodist Church, 725 Commanche Ave.

The event also will include a coral anthem, reading of the holiday proclamation by the mayor of Salina, a biography of Dr. King, prayers for the community and various musical presentations.

If you would like to participate in the celebration choir, rehearsals will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 4, Jan. 9, Jan. 11 and Jan. 16 at Quayle United Methodist Church.

There also will be two community celebrations on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which is on Monday, Jan. 18.

A noon event at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church will



include the presentation of a mural created by the church's Wednesday night youth group, as well as a dance presentation by the same group.

There also will be a noon program at Kansas Wesleyan University at the school's chapel. The event will feature Kevin "Iega" Jeff and the Kansas Wesleyan Dance team, and the same group also will have a dance workshop from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at Salina Community Theatre. For more information, call 827-6126 or

visit www.salinatheatre.com.

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16, at Quayle United Methodist, critically acclaimed storyteller Queen Nur of New Jersey will present "Voices of Courage" emphasizing the contributions of pioneering black women such as Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod and Cathy Williams. There also will be a potluck supper at the church at 6:30 p.m., and Queen Nur will make a presentation at that time as well.

Queen Nur's appearances are courtesy of the Salina Arts &

Humanities Commission.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Jan. 13: Dance workshop/master class with Jeff "Iega" Jeff, 3-5 p.m., Salina Community Theatre, open to the public.
Jan. 16: "Voices of Courage" by Queen Nur, 2 p.m., Quayle United Methodist Church.
Jan. 17: MLK Day Celebration Service, 3:30 p.m., Quayle UMC.
Jan. 18: Celebration Service, noon, St. John's Missionary Baptist Church.
Celebration Service, noon, Kansas Wesleyan University.

History of the celebration

After the assassination of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, a small group of black citizens, mostly members of Black American Citizens of Salina, got together to form the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Ad Hoc Committee. The first meeting took place in the prayer room of St. John's Baptist Church.

The first celebration in Salina to honor Dr. King took place in 1970 or 1971.

Looking to get involved? Here's an opportunity for you

"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

By **GINA McDONALD**
SHR Director

The City of Salina has many opportunities for citizen involvement. There are a variety of options based on your interest, everything from Parks and Recreation, Arts and Humanities, Animal Control, and many other boards that you can find on the City of Salina website, www.salina-ks.gov.



Gina McDonald

These boards and commissions require input from citizens to provide the city departments with needed information to make decisions that meet the needs of the community. Most often, it means participating in one meeting a month. You can volunteer for any of these boards by going to the website and filling out an expression-of-interest form and returning it to the City Clerk's Office. The mayor makes all appointments.

The Salina Human Relations Commission consists of nine volunteer citizens appointed by the mayor to serve a three-year term. They are responsible for reviewing cases of alleged discrimination, assist in setting the vision

for the work of the Human Relations Department and participate in trainings as their schedule allows.

If you have an interest in civil rights, please consider completing an expression-of-interest form. The commission meets for about two hours on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the City-County Building. We occasionally have funding to send commissioners to trainings out of town, and we offer a variety of training opportunities in town.

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about becoming a commissioner, please feel free to contact me or any of the staff at the Human Relations office.

Calendar of Community Events

Jan. 5: CLASS enrollment for the spring semester opens, visit the library or www.salinaaclass.com

Jan. 7: Eat pizza for the American Red Cross! Papa John's Pizza will donate 20 percent of the purchase price of each order to the American Red Cross.

Jan. 11: Monday night book discussion, "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout, 7 p.m., Tech Center Conference Room, Salina Public Library.

Jan. 11, 18, 25: "Stop Struggling with your Children," presented by Vicki Price, CAPS Education Director, 6-8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 308 S. Eighth.

Jan. 12: Salina Human Relations Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., Room 105, City-County Building, public is invited.

Jan. 12: Winter/Spring Storytime begins, visit www.salpublib.org for times and more information.

Jan. 12: Adult CPR/AED training, 8 a.m.-noon, \$35; first-aid training, 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m., \$30 (\$40 if also enrolling in CPR component), American Red Cross, 145 S. Broadway.

Jan. 14: Infant/child CPR class, 6-10 p.m., \$30 (\$40 if also enrolling in adult CPR component), American Red Cross, 145 S. Broadway.

Jan. 15: Beginning Computers class, 2-3:30 p.m., Library Tech Center Training Lab, Salina Public Library.

Jan. 20: Interstate 135/70 Career Expo, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., K-State at Salina Student Life Center.

Jan. 22: Beginning the Internet I, 2-3:30 p.m., Library Tech Center Training Lab.

Jan. 23: Community First Aid and Safety (includes adult, child and infant CPR), 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., \$50, American Red Cross, 145 S. Broadway.

Jan. 24: NAACP-Salina monthly meeting, 3 p.m., Salina Art Center, 242 S. Santa Fe, public is invited.

Jan. 28: Resume Lab, 10 a.m.-noon, Library Tech Center Training Lab.

Jan. 28: Author Chris Hamilton presents "The House Rules," 7:30 p.m., Prescott Room, Salina Public Library.

Jan. 29: Happy Birthday, Kansas! Party at the Library, kids of all ages welcome, 4 p.m., Prescott Room.

Jan. 29: Beginning the Internet II, 2-3:30 p.m., Library Tech Center Training Lab.

Feb. 6: Salina NAACP 2010 Annual Freedom Fund Banquet at the Bicentennial Center; reception, autographs and pictures 4:30-6:15 p.m., program 6:30 p.m. Keynote speaker will be Petri Hawkins Byrd of the "Judge Judy" TV show, who has done extensive work with youth in Los Angeles. Tickets are \$35, and proceeds benefit the NAACP youth scholarship program, the teen youth summit and the fulfillment of the NAACP mission in the Salina community.

Visit our online calendar at
www.human.salina.org

DID YOU KNOW?



Which of the following features are required in ground floor units of non-elevator, multifamily buildings of four units or more built after March 1991?

- A. An accessible building entrance or an accessible route for persons in wheelchairs.
- B. Accessible and usable public and common areas.
- C. Light switches, electrical outlets, thermostat and other environmental controls in accessible locations.
- D. All of the above.

The correct answer is **D**, all of the above. For more information about accessibility issues related to housing, please visit www.fairhousingfirst.org.

Volunteers needed to help make census a success

The Salina 2010 WE COUNT Census project needs you.

The grassroots community awareness campaign and mobilization needs more than 500 people to distribute three communication messages over a three-month timeframe, February through April.

The goal is to count everyone living in Salina on April 1, 2010, by encouraging everyone to mail in the Census form that is delivered to their mailbox at the end of March.

Volunteers are needed in your neighborhood, church and workplace to promote the importance, safety and simplicity of completing the form and mailing it by April 1.

The importance of the 2010 Census to Salina is the return of our federal tax dollars to the Salina community to meet needs



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

of our students, veterans, seniors, employees and employers. The census count also can affect funding of housing, transportation, medical care and many other services which are vital to our community.

Volunteers should contact The Volunteer Connection at 785-823-3128 or visit their website at www.nckvc.org. For more information about the 2010 WE COUNT Census in Salina, visit the Salina Area United Way's website www.unitedwaysalina.org (WE Count tab) or call the Salina Area United Way at 785-827-1312.